

~~SECRET~~
INFORMATION REPORTREPORT NO. [REDACTED]
CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 16 Mar 1949

SUBJECT Priests Visit Epirus; Imprisonment for
Political Offenses; Food and Drug Shortage

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The government of Enver Hoxha is concerned over the Albanian people's reaction to it and has decided, on the proposal of Vice President Mehmet Shehu, to modify its policy on religious questions. In an attempt to appear tolerant of the practice of religion, it has recently sent priests to various places in Northern Epirus (Southern Albania). In early February 1949 four of these priests arrived in Leskoviki.
2. Another manifestation of the concern of the Albanian Government over the people's reaction is the government decree reducing the sentence of life imprisonment for political offenses to twenty years. Full amnesty is also offered to all fugitives providing they present themselves to government authorities within a certain time.
3. The short supply of foodstuffs and the low standard of living in Albania are attributed to "the sabotage of Tito and his Albanian cohorts". Better days are promised because "the aid given by the Soviet Union is great".
4. There is a great shortage of drugs and doctors in Albania. The work of the doctors is done by nurses in almost all villages of Albania.

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Approved for Release 1978/05/10
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